

BERNARD P. CARVALHO, JR.
Mayor



NADINE K. NAKAMURA
Managing Director

COUNTY OF KAUAI

KAUAI FIRE DEPARTMENT

News Release

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ROBERT WESTERMAN, CHIEF
Tel (808) 241-4980
Fax (808) 241-6508

Officials investigate cause of Hanapēpē plane crash

HANAPEPE – Officials are now investigating the cause of a plane crash that resulted in five fatalities in Hanapēpē on Monday morning.

According to a preliminary investigation, a single engine Cessna crashed and burned at approximately 9:30 a.m. just outside of Port Allen Airport.

The plane was owned by Skydive Kaua'i, which operates out of Port Allen Airport. It is believed that the company was conducting a skydive tour at the time of the crash and had a pilot, two skydive instructors and two tandem jumpers on board.

All five individuals in the plane died as a result of the crash. Their identities have not yet been released.

An autopsy will be conducted this week.

Engine 5 out of Kalāheo fire station was first on scene and was soon joined by Truck 5, Engine 5, Truck 6, Rescue 3 aboard Air 1, the on-duty Battalion Chief, and medics. Kaua'i police officers and detectives also responded to the incident and continue to investigate the cause of the crash with assistance from the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB).

The crash resulted in a small brush fire in the surrounding area, which firefighters had extinguished by approximately 10:30 a.m. with the help of Air 1 and two water tenders provided by the Department of Public Works.

Representatives from the Hawai'i Department of Transportation Airports Division was also on scene and the Kaua'i Civil Defense Agency assisted with the coordination of emergency response.

Volunteers from Life's Bridges, a grief counseling service, is assisting the families of the victims.



Above photo: A Cessna plane operating a skydive tour was involved in a fiery crash that resulted in five fatalities.



Above photo: Multiple agencies responded to the scene of plane crash that occurred just outside of Port Allen Airport in Hanapēpē.

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